

NADO Research Foundation Releases New Environmental Stewardship Report: Clean Water for Virginia's Coal Counties

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Washington, DC – “Most residents of the seven southwestern Appalachian counties in Virginia’s mountainous coal fields now enjoy clean, safe water the same way as most other Americans – by simply turning on a faucet,” according to a new special report released by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation today. This recent success is the result of extensive regional cooperation of local government leaders, strong community involvement and the regional leadership of two regional development organizations.

The publication, *Clean Water for Virginia's Coal Counties: A Case Study in Regional Leadership, Partnerships and Strategic Investments*, explores how the Lenowisco Planning District Commission (PDC) and the Cumberland Plateau PDC have formed partnerships with local officials and community leaders to address pressing water quality and treatment needs throughout this highly rural region. By working regionally, the PDCs and their many partners have overcome difficult mountainous terrain, low population density and technological challenges to bring fresh and safer water to thousands of residents across the two regions.

The report also highlights how the two PDCs have built upon their regions’ spirit of partnerships and cooperation to address another pressing community development need – access to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband services. The two PDCs have helped create more than 2,300 new jobs, attract \$115 million in private investments and generate \$75 million in new payroll through an innovative broadband provider alliance.

Hard copies of the new NADO Research Foundation report will be mailed to all members of NADO in early January 2008. Additional copies may be ordered by calling 202.624.7806 or visiting the Publications Section of NADO.org at www.nado.org/pubs/orderforms.php. For more information, please contact Mike Bellamente at 202.6247809 or mbellamente@nado.org.